

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I Status of the Claims

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-24 have been amended with no new matter added.

Claims 5 and 12 have been canceled.

II Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants have amended claims 6 and 13, to recite the phrase “50 N/cm per unit width”. Applicants respectfully submit that this element is not indefinite. Claims 7 and 14 have been amended to recite proper Markush language. Claims 20, 22 and 24 have been amended to add a terminal period.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection to the claims.

III Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 13. Claim 6 and 13 have been amended in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim. Claims 6 and 13 have also been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4 and 8-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,629,117 to Katsukawa (“Katsukawa”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 528, 645 to Hamasaki (“Hamasaki”), Diamond, Handbook of Imaging Materials, pages 395-396 (“Diamond”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,737,669 to Ring (“Ring”). Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,629,117 to Yu (“Yu”) in view of European Patent 574,154 (“EP ‘154”) and Hamasaki. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15-18, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamasaki combined with Diamond and Ring.

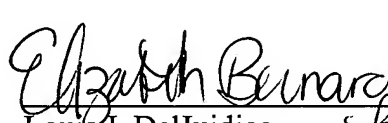
Applicants have canceled claims 5 and 12. Claims 1-4, 7-11, and 14-24 have been amended to depend from an allowable independent claim. Therefore, Applicants have rendered the present rejection moot and respectfully request withdrawal of the present rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-24 are in condition for allowance and is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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